

April 14, 1978

LR 630

CLERK: Senator Marvel voting aye.

SENATOR MARVEL: Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 6 nays, Mr. President.

SENATOR MARVEL: The motion carried. The amendment is adopted. What is the next amendment?

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Richard Lewis. To strike Sec. 28 of LR 630.

SENATOR MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Lewis. Do you move adoption of your amendment?

SENATOR R. LEWIS: I move adoption of my amendment.

SENATOR MARVEL: And it has been seconded. The floor is yours.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: This amendment strikes section 28 which provides for a refund. This tax, after it has been levied, this section provides that the producer can ask for a refund and get his money back. This provides a bunch of freeloaders. I have had some experience in this type of a thing. If there are any benefits accrued from this type of a program, the people who request and get their money back get the same benefits that those that participate in the program. They want to get all the benefits of the program, of the broadened markets, of the accelerated research, and yet they don't want to put any money into it. I think this is a selfish attitude on the part of those people. The people who are asking for this are a farm group operating in the State of Nebraska, and if you want me to, I will name names and they have persistently over the years told the farmers that we do not want a checkoff, that our organization will take care of your market promotions and your activities. Their track record is not that good. I would urge adoption of this amendment.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, I support Senator Lewis' amendment. I felt that we needed the refund, if there was not going to be a referendum, and that is one reason why it was written into the bill in the first place but I believe we are going to have a chance for a referendum and people can knock the whole thing out if they don't like it. I think this amendment should be passed and we take out the refund part of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR MARVEL: Senator Cullan and then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I remember this issue well when we talked about increasing the wheat tax last year and it took up a great deal of floor time and, certainly, we don't want to do that this year but I do believe very much that the refund is necessary to act as check and balance on the operation of this commission as it is in the Wheat Commission and I think the performance is a little better when they know

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